



## Central South Dakota Outdoor Report

### Wildlife Division – Region 2



#### *Brule/Buffalo Counties*

*Diana Schroeder*



#### **Fishing Report: See Missouri River Report below**

The walleye bite has slowed down recently in the Chamberlain area. Fishermen have been catching smaller walleyes 14-16 inches in the Chamberlain area. The walleye bite has slowed down at Ft. Thompson as well. The minimum length restriction is 15 inches with one walleye over 20 inches. The daily possession limit is 4 walleyes. The fish cleaning stations are open in the Chamberlain area and Ft. Thompson. The area between the Interstate Bridge and Railroad Bridge is open to fishing from a boat until December.

Be sure to double check your boat safety equipment (sufficient life jackets for everyone on board, fire extinguisher, and a throw able device) and boat registration before hitting the water.



#### **Hunting Report:**

The 2014 Hunting and Trapping Handbooks are now available!

The September Canada Goose season opened September 1<sup>st</sup> through the 30<sup>th</sup>. The daily limit is 8 geese. Be sure to check the boundaries of the open areas in Brule and Buffalo Counties. The boundary includes SD Hwy 34, east of Lees Blvd., southeast to SD Hwy 34, east 7 miles to 350<sup>th</sup> Ave., south to I-90 on 350<sup>th</sup> Ave., south and east on SD Hwy 50 to Geddes. An annual small game or combination license, state migratory bird certification, and federal waterfowl stamp are required for hunting this season. Canada Geese have been reported in the southeast portion of Brule County near Torey Lake.

Canada goose season, Unit 2, opened west of Hwy 50 south down to 350<sup>th</sup> Ave on November 3<sup>rd</sup>. The daily limit for Unit 2 is 4 geese. White-fronted geese daily limit is 2. Light geese daily possession is 50.

Duck season in the Low Plains zone opened September 27<sup>th</sup> east of Hwy 50. The High Plain Zone opened October 11<sup>th</sup> which includes west of Hwy 50. Several hunters have reported harvesting ducks near the Holoubek Game Production Area south of Kimball. More ducks have been moving into the area every week. Red head flocks have been moving into the area lately. Remember the daily limit for red heads is 2 per hunter.

Dove season closes November 9<sup>th</sup>.

Prairie chicken and grouse season opened September 20<sup>th</sup>. Landowners have reported seeing increased grouse numbers in the Chamberlain area this year.

Pheasant brood routes numbers have increased 76% more than last year state-wide. The regular pheasant season opened for residents and nonresidents on October 18<sup>th</sup>. Hunters reported seeing many roosters on the public hunting areas near Chamberlain. Hunters have reported seeing most of the pheasant south of Kimball.

Youth/Mentor deer season opened September 13<sup>th</sup>.

Bow season for deer opened September 27<sup>th</sup> state wide.

Fall turkey season opened November 1<sup>st</sup>. There have been reports of turkeys on Boyer GPA recently.

## **Campbell County**

Doug DeLaRoi



### **Fishing Report: *See Missouri River report below***

Small lakes have had no use. Lake Oahe has had spotty success with anglers catching walleye from 14 to 18 inches.



### **Hunting Report:**

Ducks and geese migrating through the area, small ponds and sloughs are mostly frozen over. Pheasant hunters are finding success averaging 1 bird per hunter.

## **Corson/Dewey Counties**

Shawn Madison:



### **Fishing Report:**

**Pudwell Dam:** Good fish populations including several year classes of walleye, largemouth bass, crappie, and perch. Fishing activity has been low.

**Morristown East:** No activity but stocking efforts past two years has been successful for largemouth and crappies. Fish size is small. Some northern pike.

**Morristown West:** No activity. perch stockings have been successful ranging from 8-10 inches.

**Trail City Dam:** Little to no activity and a lot of small northern pike showed up in surveys.

**Little Moreau #1:** Activity low but casting lures are good for pike and bass. Some large crappies and bluegill.

**Little Moreau #2:** Catching nice size rainbow trout on lures and corn with salmon eggs. Stocked 1200 Rainbow trout in the beginning of June 2014. Another stocking of 1200 rainbows the third week of September.

**Isabel Lake:** Some activity. Walleyes being caught using trolling crank baits and spinners. Largemouth bass have been biting. Nice population of bluegill, some large being caught. Fish from the new fishing dock.

**Eagle Butte Dam:** Little activity. Year classes of bluegill look very good ranging from 6-8 inches. Bass numbers are very good as well as perch



### **Hunting Report:**

Geese and ducks really moving out of the area fast due to the recent cold snap. Do your scouting and don't forget to ask permission. Grouse is open, hatch was fair but numbers are still low. Hunters had mixed success but overall a good experience. 70 percent of the harvest was young birds. Some reports of partridge in spots. Pheasant is open but pressure is very high in the Firesteel and Timber lake area. Numbers are better than last year but still below the ten year average. Hunters had mixed success averaging about one bird a piece. Lots of hunters on public lands and WIA. Birds are very flighty. Deer season has been slow, numbers are down from last year.

## ***Charles Mix/Douglas Counties***

*Jeff Martin*



### **Fishing Report: See Missouri River Report below**

Anglers are having some luck pulling cranks in deep water.



### **Hunting Report:**

Corn harvest is well underway, pheasants and deer are now more accessible with fewer places to hunker down. Cooler weather has got deer up and moving, should be some prut chasing going on anytime.

## ***Gregory County***

*Hans Walleser*



### **Fishing Report:**

No Report



### **Hunting Report:**

Pheasant season opened on Saturday. Hunters were having good success in areas that held water. Bird numbers are looking really good in south central South Dakota.

Daily limit is 3 roosters and possession limit is 15.

Shooting hours are 10 am till sunset.

A fully feathered head, attached foot, or fully feathered attached leg is required to transport birds not processed at a licensed processing facility. Birds from a processor may be breasted out as long as they are accompanied by a receipt stating what the birds are.

Nontoxic shot is required on game production areas and waterfowl management areas.

Please take your cleanings with you and dispose of them in an appropriate trash receptacle.

Numerous violations have been addressed with the majority of them stemming from illegal road hunting.

If you are road hunting, please follow these easy steps in order to be legal.

1. Purchase a license.
2. Make sure you are 660 feet away from any occupied dwelling, school, church, and/or livestock.
3. Pull your vehicle as far to the right side of the road as possible.
4. Turn off your vehicle and step outside.
5. Close your doors. All of them.
6. Hunt safely.

You must have permission to hunt private property.

Any questions or concerns may be addressed to Wildlife Conservation Officer Hans Walleser at 605-775-2475.

Have fun and be safe.

## ***Hyde/Hand Counties***

*Cory Flor*



### **Fishing Report: *See Missouri River report below***

Anglers are catching the rainbow trout in Crystal Pond at the Miller City Park. They are biting on mepps spinners and small daredevils.



### **Hunting Report:**

Pheasant hunters have been doing fair. They are having to work hard for every bird they get. A few ducks and sand hill cranes have been moving down over the last week.

## ***Hughes County***

John Murphy



### **Fishing Report:**

No Report



### **Hunting Report:**

Pheasant hunting continues to be good as the crops are coming out, with the cold weather hunters are doing well in cattails and thick cover. Some geese and ducks moved in over the last week and some people are having success. Archery deer hunters are doing well as the rut has begun. Make sure you have permission where you hunt and read the rules in the hunting handbook.

## **Jones County**

Brian Ridgway



### **Fishing Report: See Missouri River Report below**

No Report



### **Hunting Report:**

Pheasant hunters have been moderately successful. Most pheasant hunters experienced success on private grounds that manage for upland game birds. Hunters are reminded to obtain permission before entering private land. Hunters that are unarmed are allowed to enter private ground **ONLY** to retrieve downed small game. Hunters are not allowed to enter private ground, without permission, to attempt to flush, locate or retrieve downed small game while armed. Dogs are considered an extension of the hunter and should not be allowed on to private property other than to retrieve downed small game.

## **Lyman County**

Brian Ridgway



### **Fishing Report: See Missouri River Report below**

Fishing on Lake Francis Case is picking up. Most anglers are catching smaller 12"-14" walleye and smallmouth. Determined anglers have been able to scratch out a few limits of fish in the 16"-20" range. Walleye are being caught below the Big Bend Dam at Ft. Thompson and along the Legion Memorial Causeway. Anglers experiencing the most success are fishing around sunset.



### **Hunting Report:**

Pheasant populations are up slightly from last year. Hunters are experiencing thick cover due to excellent growing conditions throughout the summer. Hunters are strongly encouraged to identify their target and what lies beyond before they shoot. Hunters wishing to road hunt are strongly encouraged to read and understand the road hunting right-of-way regulations found on page 38 of the 2014 hunting handbook. If there are any questions feel free to contact a SD GF&P representative at any of the GF&P Offices.

## **Potter County**

Brad Saltsman



### **Fishing Report: *See Missouri River report below:***

Potts Dam – No Activity,

Lake Hurley –No Activity

Simon Dam – No Activity.

Missouri River – fishing is very slow from Swan Creek south to the Sully County line. Anglers are reporting decent catches of walleye in the Morreau river. Salmon fishing is fair up in the Whitlock Bay area.



### **Hunting Report:**

Dove – There are very few doves left in Potter and Walworth counties

Waterfowl – Hunting is better in the northeast corner of Potter county around the Tolstoy area. Several small lakes and sloughs have been holding resident geese. Not much for birds moving south yet.

Grouse – There are very few grouse in Potter and southern Walworth counties. Hunters will find the grouse in NW Potter and SW Walworth counties.

Deer – Archery Deer is underway. Potter County has a good deer population.

Pheasants – The regular pheasant season opened last Saturday. Hunters are reporting mixed success. Harvest is moderate because of the amount of standing corn and sunflowers. Success will improve as the harvest progresses.

## **Stanley County**

Josh Thompson



### **Fishing Report: See Missouri River Report below.**

Fishermen are reminded that the daily limit for walleye is 4, of which only 1 of those 4 walleye may be 20 inches or longer.

The minimum length limit for walleye caught on Lake Sharpe is 15 inches.

**Twin Dams** – Little fishing activity observed.

**Hayes Lake** – Little fishing activity observed.

**Ft. Pierre Nat. Grasslands** – Little fishing activity observed.

**Lake Oahe** – Fishing activity has slowed some with the recent cold temperatures.

**Lake Sharpe** – Walleye bite has been pretty good at the Tailraces lately, especially in the evenings.



### **Hunting Report:**

Reminder that this coming weekend (November 15<sup>th</sup>) is the West River Deer Opener.

Reminder that all deer hunters hunting with a firearm must wear fluorescent orange while hunting.

**Pheasant** – Bird numbers have been good. Anticipate that birds will be seeking more shelter and cover in these colder temperatures.

**Grouse** – Still seeing a good mix of sharp-tailed grouse and prairie chicken. The birds are starting to bunch into larger groups.

For any further information, Game, Fish & Parks hunting and fishing handbooks are available at local licensing agents; or you can visit the SD Game, Fish & Parks website at [www.gfp.sd.gov](http://www.gfp.sd.gov).

*Sully County*  
Andy Schmahl



### **Fishing Report: See Missouri River Report below.**

Fishing has been pretty slow out on Lake Oahe, and non-existent on Cottonwood Lake. About the only consistent walleye fishing has been in the Cheyenne River.



### **Hunting Report:**

Waterfowl hunting in Sully County has been pretty bad due to a general lack of shallow water. Sandhill crane, white-fronted geese, snow geese, Canada geese and ducks have been moving into the area in decent numbers in the last couple of days, but the snow and cold weather will push many of these birds further south quickly. Many of the water holes left should freeze up in the next week pushing out the birds even faster.

Pheasant hunting in Sully County has been very good, with many hunters bringing home limits of pheasants on a regular basis. With most of the crops out of the fields and adding recent snow and colder weather, pheasant hunting should get even better.

Deer hunting is starting to look pretty good with more and more crop out of the field. The deer are getting well into rut at this point, and deer numbers look very good. Archery hunters are finding some good success, and ER rifle season in 2 weeks should be excellent.

### ***Tripp/Todd/Mellette Counties***

*Chris Dekker*



**Fishing Report:** See Missouri River Report below

No Report



**Hunting Report:**

Cold weather has kept a lot of guys out of the field. People are gearing up for deer opener.

### ***Walworth County***

*Doug DeLaRoi/Brad Saltsman*



**Fishing Report:** See Missouri River report below

Small lakes had no use. Lake Oahe has had spotty success with anglers catching walleye from 14 to 18 inches.



**Hunting Report:**

Ducks and geese are migrating through the area, small ponds and sloughs are mostly frozen over. Pheasant hunters are finding success averaging 1 bird per hunter.

### **Missouri River report:**

#### ***Lake Oahe and Lake Sharpe***

*Kyle Potter*

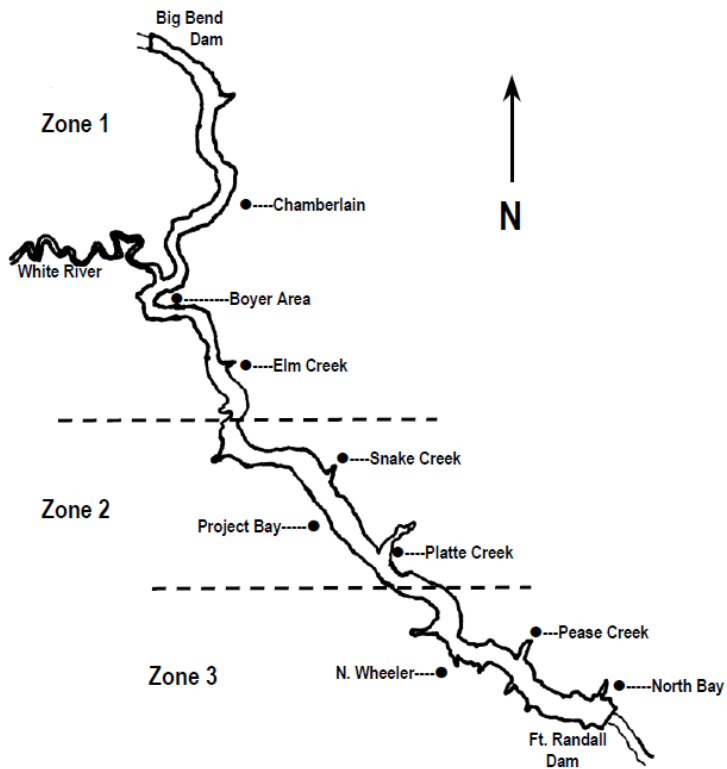
#### **Lake Oahe**

No Report

#### **Lake Sharpe**

No Report





## *Lake Francis Case*

*Rachel Tribble*

Zone 1 – The walleye bite has been tough throughout the upper third of the reservoir. Anglers are catching some smaller fish, and very few limits are being brought in. Shore anglers around the Chamberlain area seem to be catching more fish than the boat anglers.

Zone 2 – No fishing activity observed in this area.

Zone 3 – No fishing activity observed in this area.

**Reminder: Walleye/Sauger daily limit is 4 fish per day. The minimum length limit is 15" and the daily limit may include no more than one walleye/sauger 20" or longer.**